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on foot, and that on the other hand some resistance of conservatism in estate management has to be overcome before attractive opportunities can be offered to the aspiring of the rural population. The creation of "opportunities" is, and will increasingly be, the great need. No doubt, through enterprising landowners, estate companies and coöperation, the problem will solve itself in the future; but in the present I think Miss Jebb is right in holding that legislative assistance is needed. To all who are interested in the question of small holdings this volume can be unreservedly recommended. It is admirably illustrated.

University, Manchester.

S. J. CHAPMAN.

THE PROBLEM OF BOY WORK. By the Rev. Spencer J. Gibb.
London: Wells Gardner, Darton & Co. Pp. xi, 96.

This is on the whole an excellent little book. The observation is carefully done and the examination of other published material has not been neglected. Nevertheless there are points to criticize. Mr. Gibb appears to regret the decay of apprenticeship, not realizing, seemingly—or thinking it mattered—that this too frequently crystallized the population in comparatively permanent forms and caused trades to be monopolized. It suited the domestic order, but something more elastic, which makes change easier, is required for the mobile economic civilization of to-day. The technical school must take the place of education in the workshop. The former is naturally more scientific and more likely to turn out the thoughtful operative. The need of this age is the thoughtful operative and not the skilled mechanic; "skilled" meaning merely "dexterous." Our author is hesitating on the matter of the raising of the school age, though he believes in school supervision continuing up to sixteen. He has little to say of the important social reactions which must accompany any improvement in bringing out the latent capacities of individuals when they are in the plastic age. He seems to think too exclusively of what directly suits existing conditions; but it should be borne in mind that these are shaped by the characters of the attainable living factors in production.

We need a higher school limit more and not less than Germany, as our author implies. Nevertheless, this book is an excellent one and we should be most unjust if we ended on a note of complaint. Our plea is merely that Mr. Gibb might have penetrated

more profoundly into his problem than he has. Such practical advice as he gives is usually excellent. Moreover we cannot think out a reform of the evil of boy work until we are in possession of the facts, and these our author photographs most faithfully. Its worst features are found in the work that does not lead on to continuous employment and in street hawking, such as the selling of newspapers. The children who are driven to the latter occupation as a rule seem to end their lives among the dregs of society. Canon Barnett is right in seeing a large part of the secret of social amelioration in the use made of the vital years of boyhood which follow on school life, and Mr. Gibb is right in laying emphasis also upon the kind of education given in the school. Canon Scott Holland contributes a stirring introduction.

University, Manchester.

S. J. CHAPMAN.

LA FILOSOFIA DELL' AZIONE. Di Giovanni Cesca. Milano, Palermo, Napoli: Remo Sandron. Pp. 330.

The writer is opposed to Idealistic systems of ethics and to all metempirical assumption in philosophic thought. His aim is to present the claims of a philosophy of action which as phenomenism is to mediate between idealism and realism, as pluralism is to recognize the partial truth of dualism, as "solidarism" conciliates the individual and society, as "energism" gives full play to the activities of both man and his environment, and as meliorism effects a synthesis between optimism and pessimism. The author insists upon a distinction between "ideality," which in so far as it is ethico-social and not theologico-metaphysical is a justifiable and valuable concept, and "Idealism," which he regards as based upon metempirical and therefore invalid foundations. The style of the work is somewhat dry.

E. RITCHIE.

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